The relief operations undertaken in the affected areas include :

(a) Rescue operations, involving clearing of the debris and removing of dead bodies and their disposal.

(b) Medical aid in terms of personnel and supplies.

(c) Provision of foodgrain, cooked food, safe drinking water and fresh milk.

(d) Operation of 1546 temporary shelter in Latur and 6705 tenements in Osmanabad district for survivors who had lost their homes.

(e) Provision of fuel and electricity.

(f) Prophylactic public health measures for prevention of the outbreak of any epidemic.

Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, Government of India, in addition to the normal release of three quarterly instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 25.50 crores for the current year, has also released Rs. 41.50 crores as advance from the CRF to enable the State Government to undertake immediate relief measures.

18 villages in Latur and 12 villages in Osmanabad district have been allotted to various doner agencies for the purpose of reconstruction of houses and other amenities.

Apart from taking steps to utilise assistance assured by foreign Doners, a World Bank loan assistance is also being negotiated to finance the rehabilitation programmes in the affected areas involving housing and infrastructure, economic and social rehabilitation and other related programmes.

Increase in Rice yield through Rice-fish Culture

*22. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of a multi-country project funded by the Canadian Government's International Development Research Centre (IDRCS), according to which rise-fish culture can increase the yield of rice by 25 to 30 per cent ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ;

(c) whether Government propose to advise farmers to adopt this method ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) to (d) As the project does not cover India we are not aware of the details of the project. In regard to the question of advising the farmers on the technology developed under the said project, it is stated that in several eastern States of India the farmers already practice Paddy-cum-fish culture.

Installation of Fire Fighting System in High Rise Building

*23. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 622 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1993 and state :

(a) the number of high-rise buildings which have since introduced fire fighting system till now ; and

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure that the rest of the buildings also bring them at desired safety level ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL) : (a) Out of the 123 unsafe high-rise buildings in April 1993, Delhi Fire Service have reported that 13 buildings have since provided the fire fighting systems.

(b) After expiry of the last date upto which extension was given by the Delhi Fire Service for providing the mandatory 12 fire safety requirements action was initiated by the Delhi Fire Service under the provisions of the Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986, to seal the

buildings of defaulters. While action had been taken by most defaulters to rectify the lacunae, the owner of one building, which was sealed, has obtained orders of the Court for desealing. In order to prevent legal loop-holes from vitiating provisions of the Act, action is being taken for amendment of the Act.

Proposals for Mining Lease in Gujarat

*24. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending with the Central Government for grant of mining leases in Gujarat;

(b) when were these proposals received by the Central Government; and

(c) what are the reasons for the pendency of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) Prior approval of the Central Government is required for grant and renewal of prospecting licences and mining leases of minerals listed in Schedule-I of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. The position of such proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat during last 3 years is given below:

	1991	1992	1993 (upto 12.93)
No. of proposals received.	74	55	51
No. of proposals disposed off.	23	45	30
Pending proposals.	1	10	21

Consultation with other concerned Ministeries and organisations, clarifications from the State Government due to incomplete and inadequate information sent with the proposals and unavoidable administrative delays are some of the reasons for the above pendency.

Abolition of Transfer Committee for Teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas

*25. SHRI J. S. RAJU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Transfer Committee set-up in May, 1992 to monitor transfer of teachers, Principals etc. of Kendriya Vidyalayas has since been abolished; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Transfers involve administrative decisions which can be appropriately taken by competent authorities in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in accordance with the Transfer Guidelines approved by the Board of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. A Committee for this purpose was not found useful.

Villages affected by Earthquake in Maharashtra

*26. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages of Latur and Osmanabad districts and other areas which were affected by earthquake recently, indicating details of loss of human life, animal life and loss of property in the earthquake;

(b) whether only mud-built houses collapsed on a large scale;

(c) whether Government ever declared those houses unfit for safe habitation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Government of Maharashtra has reported the following damage due to the recent earthquake in the State:

1. Number of villages affected	2586
2. Loss of human life	7601
3. Loss of livestock	2100
4. Estimated loss of property (Rs. in crores)	300.00